

REPRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE PARTIES

The circumstances of military service may require representation of multiple parties, sometimes even opposing sides to a case, by Army and civilian attorneys working in the same Legal Assistance Office. Such representation is permissible so long as conflicts of interest are avoided and independent judgment, zealous representation, and protection of confidences are not compromised.

Thus, it is possible, other attorneys in this office may be helping other people involved in the same incident you are. If other people are involved in your matter, it is wise to disclose this to the attorney who sees you and then discuss it with that attorney.

Your Legal Assistance Attorney is ethically bound to zealously represent your interests within the requirements of the law and the Army's Rules of Professional Conduct

Your Legal Assistance Attorney will discuss the facts of your case in detail with you. Your attorney will provide an analysis of the case and discuss courses of action available to you. In most cases, the attorney will recommend a course of action to you. All of this will occur based on the facts of the case as they pertain to you and not as they might apply to someone else who is involved in the incident. In this way, your attorney works for you and in your best interest.

Your attorney is ethically obligated to zealously represent you and your interests no matter who else may be involved in the case. Your attorney will not divulge any information you provide to him or her or about your case unless the attorney feels it is necessary to assist your representation. Your attorney will not discuss your case with other attorneys or staff to your disadvantage and your attorney will always strive to protect your identity and interests.

You should feel comfortable and confident in discussing any matter relating to your case with your attorney. If other people are involved and have other attorneys working for them in this office, it is possible you may see those people here during your appointments because, for all the reasons given in this handout, this is not discussed among attorneys. If this distresses you, you should talk freely to your attorney about it. If you believe you would feel more comfortable going elsewhere for assistance, we will assist you in securing an appointment in another office. We cannot guarantee that office will not have a similar conflict as these types of issues are hard to determine in advance and each office may have slightly different internal policies, however we will do our best to serve you.

Army policy STRONGLY discourages representation by one Legal Assistance Office of both spouses involved in a domestic dispute. Because of this rule, this office will see only one spouse involved in such a matter.